

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

ALEXANDER, Rodney (Democrat)
Representative, 5th District, Louisiana
Elected 2002 to 108th Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: Quitman, LA - 5 December 1946

Home: Quitman, LA

Marital status: Married (Nancy) - 3 children

Religion: Baptist

Education: Louisiana Tech U, attended 1965

Profession: Insurance agent; road construction contractor

Military: Air Force Reserve 1965-71 (Barksdale AFB, aircraft maintenance)

Political: LA House 1988-02. After finishing first in the 7-way primary, won in a runoff with 50.3 percent of the vote; succeeded incumbent John Cooksey (R) who unsuccessfully ran for the Senate.

Rep Alexander is a conservative Democrat with a reserved demeanor. As a state lawmaker, he co-wrote Louisiana's Rural Hospital Preservation Act, and focused on Medicaid fraud and HMO issues. Framed the run-off election against Republican Lee Fletcher as one between "blue jeans and blue blood." Will most likely align himself with the "Blue Dog" coalition of conservative, mostly-Southern Democrats, some of whom campaigned for him. Describes himself as pro-business, pro-life, and pro-gun. In the 108th Congress said he would work to help farmers with some type of weather disaster aid bill. The 5th District is a largely agricultural area, thus said the Agriculture Cmte would be his first choice for committee assignments. (CQ, 14Dec02) Various base closings have hurt the regional economy, but in 1992 the former England Air Force Base was reopened as an industrial park.

Additional Background: Rep Alexander holds a private pilots license

AF Bases: Claiborne AF Range (ANG)

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES – Subcs on: Tactical Air & Land Forces; Projection Forces

AGRICULTURE